

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Manuscript NO:** 50829

**Title:** Aberrant methylation of SPARC gene and its significance in Gastric Cancer

**Reviewer's code:** 02839880

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** PhD

**Professional title:** Full Professor

**Reviewer's country:** Italy

**Author's country:** China

**Reviewer chosen by:** Jia-Ping Yan

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2019-08-20 08:52

**Reviewer performed review:** 2019-08-26 17:05

**Review time:** 6 Days and 8 Hours

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is an interesting paper that aimed to observe the status of promoter methylation

and the effects of SPARC gene in gastric cancer cells and tissues. Overall the manuscript is well written and the findings are interesting. Please check all the abbreviations and acronyms, and define them in the text (i.e. in the title and keywords, "GC"). The statistical analysis has been well carried out (please in the statistical analysis paragraph check for correctness " $\chi^2$ " and " $M \pm SD$ " which should be " $\chi^2$ " and "mean  $\pm$  standard deviation" respectively). Tables and Figures are clear and exhaustive. I would suggest to include more discussion on the role of methylated biomarkers, emphasizing the importance of SPARC, for the prediction and diagnosis of gastrointestinal tumors (e.g. Vacante M et al, World J Clin Cases 2018). I would also include a statement in the conclusion paragraph on the possible future clinical and/or surgical applications of the results of the study.

## INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

### ***Google Search:***

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

### ***BPG Search:***

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Manuscript NO:** 50829

**Title:** Aberrant methylation of SPARC gene and its significance in Gastric Cancer

**Reviewer's code:** 03261241

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Associate Professor

**Reviewer's country:** Japan

**Author's country:** China

**Reviewer chosen by:** Jia-Ping Yan

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2019-08-21 04:41

**Reviewer performed review:** 2019-08-28 01:13

**Review time:** 6 Days and 20 Hours

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

### SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors investigated the function of Secreted Protein, Acidic and Rich in Cysteine

(SPARC) genes in gastric carcinoma (GC) cells and tissues. In this study, the expression of SPARC was detected through qRT-PCR and Western blotting, and methylation status was analyzed by Methylation specific-PCR (MSP). They mentioned that low levels of SPARC expression and high levels of methylation in GC tissues were associated with poor clinical features and prognosis, and concluded that SPARC expression may play an important role involved in the regulation development and progression of GS. In general, this is a well-written paper that presents interesting data. It will be of interest to readers of this journal, especially to the oncologists in the field. The paper requires minor revision, which are listed below. 1. The word GC should be spelled out on the first occurrence with the abbreviated form shown in parentheses.

#### **INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT**

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##### ***BPG Search:***

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- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No